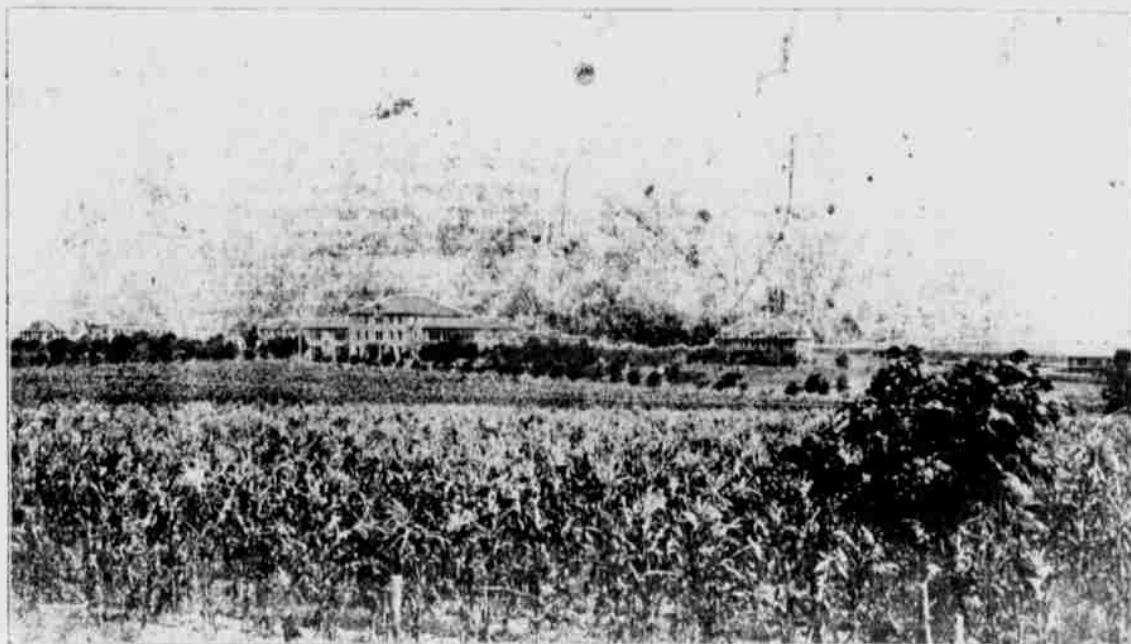


# A PEEP AT OUR PROGRESS

By Theo. Baughman, Traveling Representative



Colored A. & N. University Langston, O.

## EDUCATION KNOWS NO COLOR

THE PRESIDENT OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY IS NOT IN BUSINESS TO CUT OFF ANY EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES OF THE RACE.

## STRONG COLLEGE DEPARTMENT

WITH THE STUDENTS GIVING THEIR ENTIRE TIME TO COLLEGIATE SUBJECTS. HENCE HE'S NOT CONDUCTING A REGULAR WORK SHOP.

AN ENROLLMENT OF 539 STUDENTS, COVERING 52 COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

The Tulsa Star Traveling Man Pays a Visit to the State School and Was Astonished at the Wonderful Improvements Being Made.

(By THEO BAUGHMAN)  
(Special to the Tulsa Star)

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again," and the enemies of civilization and education will resort to such unscrupulous methods, to be sure, but the good name of a man, whose destiny is to bring Langston out of its chaotic condition, will, before many moons, discover the folly of their way. This school is the most abused institution of learning in the world, and not being satisfied with almost wrecking it, and killing its usefulness, these same enemies of race progress, boggle up with their old methods, only sugar coated with new tactics. We do not dare to say that all the people who offer opposition to the school's management are enemies of the race's progress, because we really believe that a great many of them can't give a reason why they oppose the president of said school, nor the way matters are conducted, but have been influenced by designing persons who are sore because they are not getting milk out of the state's cowanry; too, they would put up the same fight, regardless to who was serving as president of said school. They figure that if they can cause the institution to

be a failure, there'll be a chance for some of them, and if by some miracle, they did "land" the first thing they'd attempt to do, would be to pollute the treasury and otherwise bring disgrace upon Langston. As to their fitness, that's out of the question, as they have, beyond doubt, demonstrated, that they are only strong at "loud shouting." For the past few years the writer of this article has carefully watched Langston University, and has seen it pass from one of America's foremost Negro educational institutions, to an insignificant "thing," not entitled to the encouragement of the race, and we, like the majority of the thinking people of Oklahoma know whose responsible for its pitiful condition; and just as it's about to raise its head again, and take its stand among schools worth while, his satanic majesty's subjects are ever ready to pour vitriol fluid on the peaceful conditions existing there, and set a match to same, that they might see it crumble, and make glad over the falling.

Prof. Marquess was exonerated of course he was, because he had done nothing to be the least disturbed about, and it is such a sad fact that the committee will even give an ear to the "bunch" with their frivolous frame-ups. The fellow who can look calmly and without mistrust, will see his own happiness—he is superior to his surroundings.

Therefore, we haven't the least doubt that Mr. Marquess will meet every issue squarely, and will beyond a reasonable doubt, convince all that no mistake has been made in selecting him as the head of Langston University, however, before giving him a chance to properly carry out his plans, the "gang" started to heaping coals upon his head, and patching up flimsy excuses to make his administration a failure. At the very beginning, we predicted that Mr. Marquess would be the president of Langston University, and that no one would be able to "pull the string and monkey jump act," and he, by his wise counsel, has verified all we all we predicted along this line, hence "the howl from Hame!" Just so long as Mr. Marquess is president, no one need expect to fill his shoes. There's been a standard set, and the teachers, students, etc., must live up to it, otherwise its "good night Irene!" Because surely they'll not be allowed to manage Langston University. During Prof. Page's regime, they fought him because he didn't devote enough time, so they said, to industrial education, but put in too much time with the higher studies, and now they are knifing Prof. Marquess because he's doing the things that Mr. Page didn't do, and making strenuous efforts trying to train the head, the heart, and the hand of the students under him; and they are squealing like pigs because he, Mr. Marquess, is trying to give our boys and girls a thorough industrial training.

We are not weak enough to claim that everything has, and is, going on faultlessly at Langston University, but considering all things, who could have done better? The place, as stated above, was in a wretched condition when Prof. Marquess assumed the presidency, and the wonderful improvements noted on every hand, easily makes him a wonder man, and if we, as a race, wouldn't close our eyes to true conditions, and be fair with the institution, we'd all be ready and willing to say that the improvements at Langston University have been wonderful. Irregularities come up in the best regulated homes, however, some have overlooked this fact and have gone so far as to attempt to magnify every little thing which has happened at this school. So fixed in their purposes to destroy Prof. Marquess' influence for good, long before he put foot on Oklahoma soil, they planned his undoing, this the scribe has heard, with his own ears, and when we heard of his being pulled before the committee, we readily recalled some of the remarks made in our presence. We visited Langston University prior to his going there, as president, where we found rotten conditions existing; and then, we wondered back after the present president had been in charge a few months, and were astonished at the improvements noted on every hand.

Drastic methods had to be adopted, provided the school was to be saved, and there's no man more fitted to

build up a great school than Prof. Marquess. The race throughout Oklahoma should strive to uphold his hands, and assist materially in giving us a school that would be a credit to our race. We are confident that this able educator, if given half of a chance, will succeed, and regardless to whether several little hatchets are buried or not, Langston University will gradually come into its own. Since the tempest in the tea pot affair has been added to the many incidents pulled off in connection with this school, your scribe just hiked away to Langston University to "smoke it off," and see, for himself, how things are going, and whatever we may say, we'll be fair, and report true conditions as they exist there. We believe in our race, and stand uncompromisingly for the things that will go to make it a strong institution, and long since realized that, if an uproar is

being going, under every little pretext, to attempt to make a mountain out of a mole hill. The writer has never thought that our youth could know too much about work, and there's no earthly way to make them do too much else—and all the "truss" about "work" being my child to death, was a night mare, born in a diseased brain, and started on a mission of corruption, dissension, etc. This doesn't mean that we believe solely in industrial education to the exclusion of higher education, but mixing it, you get an excellent compound, which will give us prepared young men, and young women. Then came a howl about children freezing to death on account of shortages in coal, the shortage, if there was one, didn't only apply to Langston University, but all over the United States, and even just last week, the dispatches told of sufferings in vari-



J. M. MARQUESS.  
President of C. A. and N. University at Langston.

continually kept up about Langston University—such as a suffering public have had to tolerate from the time it was decided to bury Prof. Luman Page, until Mr. Marquess' coming—we didn't need the school. We trust the last episode has been given the public, and that the race, to a man, are willing to get behind this institution and make it a creditable school. This can't be done, if designing crit-

ical institutions on account of shortage in coal on account of the congested condition of traffic due to submarine activities, etc. This was used as a scare-crow, to frighten Negro parents throughout the state, and ultimately make the school a failure, however, it wouldn't hold good. Then charges of misuse of funds, that wouldn't hold water, were launched, only to be proven untrue; every "frame-up," hatched for a devilish purpose, has melted before the excellent management of Prof. Marquess. He has revolutionized things at Langston University and should be given the hearty cooperation of every colored person in Oklahoma, who stands for race betterment, and we pray that the curtain will be rung down on opposition, and give the school the genuine cooperation that it is so justly entitled to. The fault-finding, ditch digging, core-head colored man, whose only ambition is to "carry a pin" should fall in line, and everything will be amicably settled at Langston University. If every colored parent in the state could visit the school, and study conditions, as they exist, he'd go away an apostle for Langston University and would lend his material assistance in making the institution a glorious success. There are many needed things for Langston to make it a university, but the methods of some, if given any serious consideration, will not only kill the school, but will leave a blot on the race's history. This institution is ours, and as a race, it's up to us, very largely to make it a success; therefore, let us quit our tomfoolry, and do more work and less kicking. We studied conditions very closely on our visit, and from inquiries to both members of faculty and students, we ascertained that everything was moving along in an

ideal way, and the school was just a big, contented family. The first place we visited was the office, and there found an excellent clerical force, properly looking after the business end of the school. We put ourselves in the hands of the president who tried to show us everything connected with the institution.

We spent considerable time going over the farm, which consists of 225 acres that are actually in cultivation, 26 acres of said land had been idle for more than three years; due to the fact that there was no bridge across the creek. A bridge, which would cost easily \$250 has been built; it's 46 feet long, and the only expense connected with same, was for labor, as the material for the most part was gotten from the woods near by, thereby saving the state fully \$200. A road is being cut direct from the campus to said bridge—a distance of more than one-half mile, and it's now possible to go over the entire farm without getting off the school's land. This is the best land on the place and by next year, it is expected to reclaim, and plant the 26 acres that's now in woods. On this part of the farm, we found 27 acres in alfalfa, 40 acres in oats, up and thriving; 10 acres of clover, 3 acres of Irish potatoes, also on the place we found 20 acres of wheat, 20 acres of rye, 34 acres of wheat and rye planted for pasture, 6 acres of garden truck, 6 acres of rape, other fields are being put in proper shape for forage, kaffir corn, plants have been ordered, the ground has already been prepared for them. Hot beds are filled with seed consisting of 15 baskets of sweet potatoes, numerous other vegetables, like tomatoes, cabbage, etc. We noticed that the school farm, under the direction of Mr. N. J. Calloway, who spent 25 years with Tuskegee, is way ahead of surrounding farms, and in fact, it's in better shape than ever before in the history of the school. Prof. Marquess' plan so far as the garden is concerned, is to supply the school table. More than seven thousand pounds of pork have been used on the university dining table, from their own hog pens, and we found more than 100 fine porkers are on hand for next year's supply. There are eight thoroughbred sows will farrow within the next two weeks. Hundreds of gallons of milk have been furnished the boarding department from the school's own dairy. It was the pleasure of the scribe to eat dinner in the boarding department, and the following menu was served for all: Roast beef, stewed beans, sweet potatoes, English peas, corn bread, and syrup. The kind of eating costs \$3 per month, and we found that the state was operating the boarding department and that Mr. Marquess is only its agent. There's been so much said about this, that we inquired particularly about same, and found that all monies taken in by this department are deposited in the state treasury. Then too, we with our own eyes, saw the duplicate deposit slips. One thing that we did find, since Mr. Marquess has been there, the graft in this department has been administered a knockout blow. Everything is spotless, and our girls are receiving a much needed drilling in things that go to build up the home. The state is about to purchase \$500 worth of additional equipment for the domestic science department. Water has been connected up in the girls' dormitory and the laundry and within a few days hot and cold water will be on hand, in all the buildings.

An erroneous impression has gone out over the state, concerning the "three and three plan," we made a diligent inquiry about same, and found that out of nineteen classes, that this applied to only two of the classes. There were petitions on the president's desk from students, asking that they be granted the privilege to work, thereby helping them in school. Some of these young people are being paid well, as they receive more than \$200 each month from the state; we met several boys who were receiving salaries of more than \$25 per man, and going to school at the same time.

A \$1000 Mason-Dixon Grand piano has recently been installed and the music department greatly toned up. This makes the second piano installed since Prof. Marquess has been at Langston University, and he is determined to make this feature of the school exceptional strong. The auditorium has been so equipped that it also serves as a gymnasium; the chairs at a women's notice can be moved and the building converted into a gymnasium. This is quite an addition to the school.

Langston is a regular mecca for visitors, each Sunday fully 250 white citizens from Coyle, Guthrie and nearby places, visit same. Only the past week the Ozark trail people visited the school, and spent an hour in

speech-making and looking Langston University over. An invitation was extended Prof. Marquess to send a Glee Club to the Ozark convention, which the visit.

which will convene in Texas, said club to be guests of the convention. During the visit, the Ozark people were royally entertained by the college brass band, which fully captivated the distinguished men, who went to make up the party. This school is attracting the attention of the world, and we trust more of our people will visit same, as it's an inspiring scene, reports that some of our people try to spread from time to time.

As we went from department to department we noticed each one thoroughly interested in his work, and perfectly contented. As stated above the "Three and three" bugaboo was a lie, a yard wide, and instead of "killing our children" with work, they were really a happy bunch and manifesting more than ordinary interest in what they were doing. Every available piece of land is being put in cultivation, and things are being brought about at Langston University. When



PROF. W. E. HENDERSON.

The wide-awake principal of the Perry, Okla., colored city school.

We visited Mechanical building and noticed a class of boys in blacksmithing, we also experienced some pleasure. Going out of said building our eyes fell on a class in agriculture, hiking to the field to study the soil, etc. The \$20,000 water plant recently installed now furnishes an adequate supply of water, as the children are furnished pure water in the building. This is an improvement entitled to more than passing notice and a needed one, indeed. Another thing your scribe found out that there are now more Oklahoma children enrolled at Langston University than ever before since it has been a school, thereby showing that the citizens of the state are becoming more interested in this institution, and instead of sending their children to some other state, are helping to build up a strong school in Oklahoma. This university has the strongest faculty in the history of the school, there being 25 well prepared men and women now teaching. Education knows no color, and Prof. Marquess said that he was not in the business to cut off any educational advantages of the race. Supporting this, we found a strong college department, with the students going their entire time to collegiate subjects. By this the reader will see that he's not conducting a regular work shop. We were surprised to find an enrollment of 539 covering 52 counties in the state of Oklahoma. We found by actual count 231 in the dining hall, and the register books show 356 in daily attendance. There's been an additional \$10,000 appropriated for improvements at the university; \$6,000 of which will be into a additional heating and bathing facilities; \$2,000 in equipping the laundry building and the other \$2,000 for additional coveys, etc. The magnificent \$20,000 water system is now in operation, as we visited same, and found it first-class in every respect, the well furnishing 200,000 gallons of pure, soft water daily. This will give the school an opportunity to irrigate, and the institution will now have a garden second to none in the country.

Our visit convinced us that the school is rapidly forging ahead, and a place now where our boys and girls can go and be thoroughly trained.

Bamboo shoots are considered edible in China, and it is said that when they are of good variety they form a vegetable dish that has no rival.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

There are 13 buildings all told, valued at \$75,000.

There are 225 acres of land; 225 under cultivation, and the remainder of the land is used for pasture, athletic field, campus, etc.

There are 25 expert educators employed.

The enrollment is 539—representing 52 Oklahoma counties.

The university has a brass band, orchestra, Glee Club, Jubilee Club, chorus and quartette.

There is a football team, a baseball team, and with the opening of the new gymnasium, a basketball team will be organized for boys and girls. Langston University also has lawn tennis.

There's harmony at Langston University, and everybody is doing real school work.

A visit to Langston University soon conveys the idea that the right man is at its head.

Prof. Marquess has surrounded himself with able instructors.

The president is going to attempt to raise everything they use on the tables.

Prof. Marquess is planting flowers and otherwise beautifying the university grounds.

This man, Prof. Marquess, is stirring early and late to give our boys and girls thorough training.

The eating at Langston University is wholesome, and the sleeping quarters sanitary.

There are 25 teachers employed they are giving students the best along educational lines.

There is a nine-acre orchard at Langston University, from which it is hoped many cans of fruit will be put up.

More than 100 head of fine hogs are to be seen at Langston University.

Plenty good teams—nine head of mules, four wagons, and hundreds of dollars worth of implements.

Prof. Marquess is making plans for a vigorous summer school, which promises to be largely attended.

There is a general toning-up process going on at the school.

If you visit Langston University you will soon see that there are some "falsifying brethren" residing in Oklahoma.

Prof. Marquess has put a black eye on graft, and knocked booze fighters completely out at Langston University.

If you want your position at Langston University you must take care of it.

Prof. Marquess is striving to give the Negro youth everything that go to make of him a prepared man.

Drop over and see the bunch and you'll be convinced that they are doing their entire duty.



MISS JULIA H. ELLIOT.  
An ideal school teacher and one of the best young women we have. She is a member of the Nowata colored city school.



PROF. J. OSCAR SPENCER.

Popular principal of the Nowata, Okla., colored city school. He is a strong man and a friend to Negro enterprise. He'll be at the head of the summer normal at Wagoner, Okla., this year.